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Information and communication technologies for development

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, China, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan: draft resolution

Building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Superhighway

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[1] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[2] and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[3] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[4]

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5]

Stressing the need to reduce the digital divide and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies are available to all,

Noting that Governments, as well as the private sector, civil society and the United Nations, and other international organizations, have an important role in bridging the digital divide for the benefit of all and in building an inclusive and people-centred information society,

[1] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.
[2] See resolution 59/220.
[3] See A/60/687.
[4] See resolution 60/252.
[5] See resolution 60/1.

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Recognizing that well-developed information and communication network infrastructures, such as information superhighways, act as one of the main technological enablers of the digital opportunities, and noting, in this regard, the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Trans-Eurasian Information Superhighway convened by the Government of Azerbaijan in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, held in Baku on 11 November 2008,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communication technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster economic growth, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, particularly developing countries, in the global economy;

2. *Also recognizes* the immense potential that building connectivity can have in contributing to social progress, including in advancing the status of women and promoting social integration and tolerance;

3. *Stresses* the importance of strengthened and continued cooperation among all stakeholders to build and run information infrastructures to bridge the digital divide in the region, and encourages interested Member States to participate in the development of regional connectivity solutions;

4. *Recognizes* the need to build connectivity in the region to help bridge the digital divide, and in this regard, welcomes the Trans-Eurasian Information Superhighway initiative and the readiness of the Republic of Azerbaijan to coordinate regional efforts aimed at realizing this initiative.